

April 26, 2017

Southern Communications Services, Inc.
d/b/a Southern Linc
5555 Glenridge Connector, Suite 500
Atlanta, GA 30342

VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Southern Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Southern Linc Request for
Confidential Treatment of Form 477 Data; WT Docket 17-80**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's (the "Commission") March 29, 2017 Public Notice (the "March Public Notice"),¹ the Commission's April 11, 2017 Order (the "April Order"),² and Section 0.459(b) of the Commission's rules,³ Southern Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Southern Linc ("Southern Linc" or the "Company") respectfully requests that the Commission afford confidential treatment to the Company's data contained in its FCC Form 477 ("Form 477") filings.

Specifically, Southern Linc requests confidential treatment of its Form 477 data because the information disclosed therein is not ordinarily disclosed in the industry and disclosure would have adverse competitive consequences for Southern Linc.

The requirements governing such requests are set forth in Section 0.459(b) of the Commission's rules, and in support of this request, Southern Linc hereby submits the following:

¹ DA 17-286.

² DA 17-347.

³ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b).

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**I. IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR WHICH
CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT IS SOUGHT (SECTION 0.459(B)(1))**

Southern Linc seeks confidential treatment of the data provided in its December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2016 Form 477 filings. Additionally, as provided for in the Commission's March Public Notice, Southern Linc requests the same confidential treatment for all data submitted in any future Form 477 filings.

**II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE COMMISSION PROCEEDING IN WHICH THE
INFORMATION WAS SUBMITTED OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE
CIRCUMSTANCES GIVING RISE TO THE SUBMISSION (SECTION
0.459(B)(2))**

Southern Linc has already requested confidential treatment of both its December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2016 Form 477 filings. However, the Commission's March Public Notice requires that service providers seek confidential treatment of Form 477 data and justify confidentiality beyond the individual confidentiality requests that Southern Linc has already made with previous Form 477 filings.

**III. EXPLANATION OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INFORMATION IS
COMMERCIAL OR FINANCIAL, OR CONTAINS A TRADE SECRET OR IS
PRIVILEGED (SECTION 0.459(B)(3))**

Southern Linc's December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2016 Form 477 filings (and future Form 477 filings) contain specific information about Southern Linc's commercial operations; information which Southern Linc does not ordinarily disclose. Accordingly, the information for which Southern Linc seeks confidential treatment contains sensitive commercial information that competitors could use to Southern Linc's disadvantage. The Commission has broadly defined commercial information, stating that "[c]ommercial" is broader than information regarding basic

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commercial operations, such as sales and profits; it includes information about work performed for the purpose of conducting a business's commercial operations.”⁴

IV. EXPLANATION OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INFORMATION CONCERNS A SERVICE THAT IS SUBJECT TO COMPETITION (SECTION 0.459(B)(4))

Southern Linc provides a variety of wireless communications services, and industry segment in which substantial competition exists. The presence of numerous competitors make imperative the confidential treatment of sensitive commercial information.

V. EXPLANATION OF HOW DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION COULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL COMPETITIVE HARM (SECTION 0.459(B)(5))

Release of the information for which Southern Linc requests confidentiality could have a significant impact on Southern Linc's commercial operations and would provide competitors with an unfair competitive advantage.

VI. IDENTIFICATION OF ANY MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE (SECTION 0.459(B)(6))

Southern Linc has previously requested confidential treatment for both its December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2016 Form 477 filings, and plans to do so for all future Form 477 filings. Southern Linc does not ordinarily disclose the information contained in its December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2016 Form 477 filings. Additionally, the Company does not intend to disclose any information contained in its future Form 477 filings.

⁴ Southern Company Request for Waiver of Section 90.629 of the Commission's Rules, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 14 FCC Rcd 1851, 1860 (1998)(citing *Public Citizen Health Research Group v. FDA*, 704 F.2d 1280, 1290 (D.C. Cir. 1983)).

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VII. IDENTIFICATION OF WHETHER THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND THE EXTENT OF ANY PREVIOUS DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES (SECTION 0.459(B)(7))

The information contained in the Company's December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2016 Form 477 filings (and future Form 477 filings) is not available to the public and has not been disclosed to third parties.

VIII. JUSTIFICATION OF PERIOD DURING WHICH THE SUBMITTING PARTY ASSERTS THAT THE MATERIAL SHOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE (SECTION 0.459(B)(8))

Southern Linc respectfully requests that the Commission withhold its Form 477 data from public inspection for a period of ten (10) years. This period is necessary due to the proprietary nature of Form 477 data. Competitors of Southern Linc could use the Company's Form 477 data to gain an unfair competitive advantage, particularly since Southern Linc files Form 477 solely to comply with the Commission's requirements. Southern Linc would suffer substantial competitive injury if this information were to be disclosed and Southern Linc has taken steps to safeguard all of the information contained in Form 477 from public disclosure.

In the event that any person or entity requests disclosure of the Company's Form 477 data, please notify Southern Linc immediately using the contact information provided in order to permit the Company to oppose such request or take such other actions to safeguard its interests as necessary.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (678) 443-1518.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kasey C. Chow

Kasey C. Chow
Attorney
Southern Linc